

S/N 09/175,589

Docket No.: 12369.5US01

period of received email messages based on visual screen selection. In order to further prosecution of this case, Applicant has amended claims 1, 13, and 17 to further clarify that the electronic record is distributed after the electronic tag is created. Sakano does not meet the limitations of amended claims 1, 13, and 17. There is no teaching or suggestion in Sakano that an electronic tag is created and stored at the time an electronic record (an email message for example) is distributed. In contrast, Sakano teaches that received email is manually assigned a retention time by the recipient. See Sakano at Fig. 3A and col. 2 lines 37-56. Claims 1, 13, and 17 recite features that are not taught, disclosed, recognized or implied by Sakano.

Applicants will now address the Examiner's specific correspondence of the claim limitations to the passages of Sakano, in the context of the amended claims. At paragraph 3 the Examiner states that Sakano at col. 2 lines 27-36 and col. 4 lines 1-9 and col. 5 lines 29-42 disclose "distributing the electronic record associated with the electronic tag." Col. 2 lines 27-36 do not disclose an electronic tag in any manner. Col. 4 lines 1-9 describe specific fields associated with a received email message (i.e., "reception date") and thus do not disclose "distributing the electronic record after it is identified by the electronic tag" as recited in claims 1, 13, and 17. Col. 5 lines 29-42 describe a graphic display associated with an electronic record called two and one half months after it was received and a retention period set. It does not disclose the limitations of claims 1, 13, 17.

In Paragraph 4 the Examiner states that "The storage at the time an electronic record (an e-mail message) is distributed" is taught in col. 1, lines 37-58, col. 2, lines 27-36, and fig. 4 (steps 61, 62, 71-75, & 63). Col.1, lines 37-58 do not disclose "distributing the electronic record

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after it is identified by the electronic tag" as Sakano here describes "establishing a retention period with respect to information which is entered from an external source." There is no suggestion of distributing an email with an electronic tag attached. In contrast, establishing a retention period for a received email is described. Col. 2, lines 27-36 describe sending and receiving email, but no mention is made of sending an email "after it is identified by the electronic tag" as recited in claims 1, 13, and 17. Fig. 4 (steps 61, 62, 71-75, & 63) again applies to received email only and does not recite the limitations of claims 1, 13, and 17. Fig. 4 does not disclosed, recognize, or imply "distributing the electronic record after it is identified by the electronic tag." Step 72 is "reception date." Col. 4 lines 24-26 of Sakano recites that "The received electronic mail is displayed and saved and retention periods (retention due dates) are established in the manner described above." (emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection of claims 2-12, 14-16, and 18-22 for reasons unnecessary to detail at this time because these claims depend from claims 1, 13, and 17, respectively, and thereby incorporate the patentably distinguishing features of claims 1, 13, and 17 as noted above.

However, Applicant notes that the limitations of claim 5 are clearly not disclosed taught, disclosed, recognized or implied by Sakano. For example, a "registry and user profile" is not disclosed at col. 4 lines 12-16. Col. 4 lines 12-16 disclose saving data that is within an email message, such as the sender's name and text from the main message. None of col. 4 lines 12-16 is a "registry and user profile."

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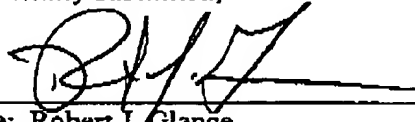
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above discussion, Applicant believes that the claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions, she is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney below at (612) 371-5305.

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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

Please make the following changes to claims 1, 13, and 17:

1. [Twice Amended] A method for managing an electronic record in a distributed computing environment, comprising the steps of:
 - creating an electronic tag that uniquely identifies an electronic record;
 - storing the electronic tag; and
 - distributing the electronic record [associated with] after it is identified by the electronic tag.
13. [Twice Amended] An apparatus for managing electronic records on a in a distributed computing environment, the apparatus comprising:
 - a computer system comprising at least one processor and at least one memory, the computer system being adapted and arranged for:
 - creating an electronic tag that uniquely identifies an electronic record;
 - storing the electronic tag; and
 - distributing the electronic record [associated with] after it is identified by the electronic tag.
17. [Twice Amended] An article of manufacture for managing electronic records in a distributed computing environment, the article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium having a computer program embodied therein that causes the computer network to perform the steps of:
 - creating an electronic tag that uniquely identifies an electronic record;
 - storing the electronic tag; and
 - distributing the electronic record [associated with] after it is identified by the electronic tag.